

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS
APPROVING IN PART, CONCURRING IN PART**

In the Matter of Amendment of Part 22 of the Commission's Rules To Benefit the Consumers of Air-Ground Telecommunications Services; Biennial Regulatory Review—Amendment of Parts 1, 22, and 90 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 03-103

Amendment of Parts 1 and 22 of the Commission's Rules To Adopt Competitive Bidding Rules for Commercial and General Aviation Air-Ground Radiotelephone Service, WT Docket No. 05-42

Application of Verizon Airfone Inc. for Renewal of 800 MHz Air-Ground Radiotelephone License, Call Sign KNKG804, File No. 0001716212

Order on Reconsideration and Report and Order, adopted December 8, 2005.

Today's action brings airline passengers one step closer to realizing the benefits of new air-to-ground broadband services. The current narrowband air-to-ground service – which is expensive and limited to voice – has not lived up to expectations. New air-to-ground broadband will afford passengers a wider and more cost-effective array of services, and I encourage the auction winner to roll these services out to passengers as quickly as possible.

Notwithstanding my enthusiasm for new consumer broadband options in the skies, I concur in part due to my concerns that our original decision created the strong possibility of a monopoly licensee in air-to-ground broadband services. Although that issue is no longer before us, I remain concerned that America's aviation industry and its passengers will not have the full range of choices in air-to-ground broadband that they might otherwise have enjoyed. We must nevertheless proceed forward based on the decisions already taken to ensure the timely deployment of broadband for the benefit of the flying public.